

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. – 7. (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A method of maintaining and managing a plurality of power generating facilities which supply power to arbitrary power systems, comprising the steps of:

receiving information of a failure which has occurred in at least one of said power generating facilities, through communication means, according to operation information of said power generating facilities,

selecting a repairing period and procedure for said failure, from repairing periods and procedures which are predetermined according to levels of failures, and

outputting an instruction to control the operation of at least one of said power generating facilities other than said power generating facility in which said failure has occurred, according to said selected repairing period and procedure.

9. - 11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented) An operation and management system for power generating facilities which maintains and manages a plurality of power generating facilities which supply power to arbitrary power systems, comprising:

a database storing operation data obtained while said power generating facilities are in normal operating states and operation data obtained while said power generating facilities are in abnormal states,

an error supervision/diagnosis means which compares actual operation data of said power generating facilities with operation data stored in said database, checks for any operation error, and outputs failure information when finding an operation error,

a fault level judge means which determines a level of said failure from said output failure information, and

an operation scheduling means which shows a predetermined repairing period and procedure selected according to said determined failure level.

13. (new) A method of maintaining and managing a plurality of power generating facilities which supply power to arbitrary power systems in same system comprising the steps of:

receiving information of failure which has occurred in at least one of said power generating facilities, through communication means, according to elapsed characteristic information about operation states and apparatuses which is operation information of said power generating facilities,

selecting a repairing period and procedure for said failure, from requiring periods and procedures which are predetermined according to levels of failures, and controlling a rise in loads of other than said power generating facility, when a load following is able to perform according to other than said power generating facility during an instruction to control the operation of at least one of said power generating facilities other than said power generating facility in which said failure has occurred, according to said selected repairing period and procedure.

14. (new) A method of maintaining and managing a plurality of power generating facilities according to claim 8, wherein

when said failure is a heavy failure, said failure power generating facility is interrupted according to a plant automatic interrupting function, and

from said plant automatic interrupting function, interrupting information of said failure generating facility is transmitted to a scheduling function.

15. (new) An operation and management system for power generating facilities according to claim 12 further comprising:

a plant automatic interrupting function for instructing an interruption of said failure generating facility, when said failure degree is a heavy failure, and

a scheduling function for receiving interruption information of said failure generating facility from said plant automatic interrupting function.

16. (new) An operation and management system for power generating facilities according to claim 12 further comprising:

a plant automatic interrupting function for instructing an interruption of said failure generating facility, when said failure degree is a heavy failure, and

an operation state judging means in the same system for judging whether or not a load following is able to perform in the same system of said power generating facility.

17. (new) An operation and management system for power generating facilities according to claim 12 further comprising:

a plant automatic interrupting function for instructing an interruption of said failure generating facility, when said failure degree is a heavy failure,

an operation state judging means in the same system for judging whether or not a load following is able to perform in the same system of said power generating facility, and

an operation state judging means in another same system for judging whether or not a load following is able to perform in said another system of said power generating facility.